

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OES-03 ACDA-05 /081 W

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R 201717Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8483

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02626

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, UK, US, UR

SUBJECT: BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

REF: LONDON 2281

1. ON FEB 19, EDMONDS OF FCO ADVISED US THAT LAST DEPENDENT TERRITORY (FALKLAND ISLANDS) HAS NOW COMPLETED LEGISLATION TO ALLOW UK TO DEPOSIT RATIFICATION. NEXT STEP IS TO HAVE AN ORDER IN COUNCIL. THIS REQUIRES MEETING OF PRIVY COUNCIL. EDMONDS HAS REQUESTED COUNCIL MEETING AND HOPES THAT ON FEB 25, 26 OR 27 QUEEN MOTHER AND PRINCESS ANNE (COUNCILLORS OF STATE IN ABSENCE OF QUEEN) WILL SIGN ORDER IN COUNCIL. UK WOULD THEN BE READY TO DEPOSIT RATIFICATION.

2. THERE COULD STILL BE SLIPS IN SCHEDULE SO EDMONDS CANNOT MAKE FIRM PROPOSAL FOR CEREMONY. BUT HE SUGGESTS INFORMALLY THAT U.S. CONSIDER SOME DATE BETWEEN MARCH 4-2L. UK WOULD HOPE HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL SIGNATORIES AND RATIFIERS ON HAND IN WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND LONDON FOR SAME DAY CEREMONY.

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3. EDMONDS WILL TELL SOVIET EMBASSY HERE OF STATUS OF

UK RATIFICATION PROCEDURE BUT FEELS HE CANNOT SAY TO THEM
THAT UK WILL BE READY BY MARCH 4 SINCE THIS PRESUMES
SIGNATURE OF ORDER IN COUNCIL.

4. EDMONDS ASKED IF USG WOULD INDICATE SOONEST PREFERENCE FOR DATE OF CEREMONY WITHIN TIME FRAME PARA 2 ABOVE.
PLEASE ADVISE.

SPIERS

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NNN

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